



Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Review
Public Scoping Meeting Comments

Oct. 2, 2008

6 – 9 p.m.

Ocean Shores Convention Center, Ocean Shores, WA

In all, nine people attended the meeting (excluding sanctuary staff). Meeting attendees were divided into two discussion groups. Each group was facilitated by a sanctuary staff member. An additional staff member served as note-taker. Discussion groups sat around tables facing projected Microsoft Word blank document pages. Facilitators each asked their groups, “what should be Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary’s priorities for the next 5 to 10 years? Note-takers typed each group member’s comments so that the entire group could see them. Facilitators checked in with each participant to verify that his/her typed comments were accurate; the participants could then request changes to the wording. Here are the responses from each group.

Group #1

Facilitator: Bob Steelquist

Note-taker: Helene Scalliet

- The sanctuary should support an education program that starts with students and follows up all the way to seniors. Some visitors and residents have no background on marine life – lifelong learning is important. Don’t take just the kids on field trips – also take newcomers and seniors on field trips to the beach, tide pools, rainforest, whale watching, etc...
- The sanctuary should work together with the state, counties, port authorities, and the tribes to expand knowledge of habitat characterization. Collecting the data would help other initiatives such as siting of wave energy structures, ecosystem assessments, protection of essential fish habitat, etc...
- The sanctuary should be proactive in the issues of cable laying, drilling, wave energy and wind energy siting. These activities should not occur in the sanctuary. This comes from the negative experience with the cable laying in the sanctuary (damages, efforts in fixing the impacts, etc...).
- The sanctuary should support best science and research to inform decision-making on the issue of cable laying, drilling, wave and wind energy siting.
- The sanctuary should be part of the decision-making (permitting, etc...) for all of these issues mentioned above even if it can’t prohibit/regulate any of them.

- There is an issue of overcrowding of commercial/industrial ocean uses outside of the sanctuary boundaries.
- Oyster farming, fishing, crabbing... How can we enhance and maintain those commercial and recreational industries within the sanctuary? The sanctuary should be proactive in seeking out issues related to this and help protect those industries.
- Recommendations are contained within the state ocean policy document and West Coast Governor's agreement. For example, marine debris and derelict fishing gear. The sanctuary should look at those recommendations and find the ways in which it can partner with other entities to further those objectives.
- For example, help other agencies/groups (WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife) in putting together and pursuing grant proposals (the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration marine debris program).
- Doppler radar should be put in place for this area. The outer coast is not covered by current Doppler radar. This is important for navigation safety – need ability to do better forecasting. This is on the table with other groups as well (Weather Service, state). Sanctuary could be an advocate within the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- For example, look into new weather forecasting technology with Dr. Cliff Mast at the University of Washington.
- The Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) northwest fishery science center have long-term research plans. These plans should be reviewed by sanctuary to potentially form partnerships for research. In the past they focused on single species and stock assessment. In the new research plans, they must ask whether there are regional differences in the stocks (where the fish lives, migrates, etc) when doing stock assessment. Now they need to ask "Is there a reason to manage stock differently in different regions?" The sanctuary should make sure that there is communication with fisheries researchers and that resources and data can be pooled together to help further our goals. What makes the sanctuary special may create various habitats for different stocks of fish. The sanctuary can help fisheries managers with refining regional differences within stocks.
- For example, the sanctuary could facilitate stock assessment research by giving boat time or other means to help fisheries researchers to do their job.
- Spill protection response programs need to be coordinated. We are in good shape but we cannot take it for granted; we need to keep ourselves ready for when it happens.

Group #2

Facilitator: John Barimo

Note-taker: Jacqueline Laverdure

- Sanctuary should conduct more mapping and habitat characterization within its boundaries.

- More ecosystem protection assessment of dynamics – impacts by climate change, human interaction, natural variation – create baselines of species, and habitat (coral, kelp)
- Would like to investigate the feasibility to determine whether the Sanctuary should be extended to entire Washington coast.
- Human interaction –
 - How do the fishermen impact the wildlife?
 - Is there illegal shooting of wildlife?
 - The sanctuary needs more education for the fishermen.
- Need continued monitoring of Area to Be Avoided to determine violations and gather data.
- Need monitoring using remote sensing
 - More work with partnerships; agencies, tribes, non government organizations, and research institutions.
 - To monitor physical changes and biological changes in the water of the sanctuary (e.g., harmful algal blooms - HABs).
- Ecosystem protection
 - Assess areas in the sanctuary for commercial development including wave energy projects for risk analysis, however aquaculture also applies.
- Need additional research on deep sea corals. Where they are, what they do, how they interact within the ecosystem.
- Marine debris
 - Fishing gear
 - Create partnerships to get money for scoping and removal of marine debris, including derelict fishing gear.
 - Investigate scope of problem
 - Determine if feasible to remove
 - Create partnerships to remove gear
 - Get permits to remove crab gear due to disturbance of sea bottom
- Make it a priority to get the funding for a permanent rescue tug
 - Insure that all vessels containing hazardous materials are respecting the areas to be avoided
 - Having response equipment available up and down the sanctuary and conduct response drills.
- Keep tug.
- Continue education, not just in the schools but within surrounding communities.
 - Using web, posting information, updates online
 - Alternative to print media.
- Sanctuaries should maintain that no offshore drilling should occur within their boundaries.
- Sanctuary should maintain regular data to investigate carbon sequestering and ocean acidification.
 - Need baseline data
 - Monitor key species that may be affected by acidification.
 - Coccolithophores

- To create more opportunities for coastal communities and recreational users to become stewards of the ocean environment (e.g., beach clean ups, water quality monitoring, education and awareness, etc.)
 - Ocean literacy
 - Education
- Develop education programs that reach those communities: Neah Bay, Forks, La push, Taholah.
- Improving partnerships to meet the goals of the peoples of the sanctuary.
 - Those who use
 - Those who live near
 - Anyone who has an interest
- Work with other sanctuaries on the West Coast to research cruise ship dumping and pursue other opportunities to reduce this dumping in the Sanctuaries.
- Sanctuary should stay involved with recently formed action groups.
 - Marine Resource Committees
 - Governor's Ocean Action Plan
 - Ocean caucus
 - Stay involved in state coordinating